

ANNUAL REPORT

NORTH WEST COMMUNITY
LEGAL CENTRE INC.

www.nwclc.org.au

ABN: 49 687 881 481

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2023/
2024



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The North West Community Legal Centre Inc acknowledges and pays respect to the Palawa/Pakana people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of the land on which the Centre operates and acknowledges elders past, present and the Tasmanian Aboriginal people.



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Access to justice is becoming a critical issue across the North West Coast and the broader Tasmanian community. Due to the cost of living, many people do not have the capacity to pay for representation, however they may also not be eligible for assistance through other avenues, such as legal aid. The North West Community Legal Centre is seeing an ever increasing demand for service, to support those in need, often with complex social issues, intertwined with their legal issues.

The Centre continues to work tirelessly to meet this need whilst continuing to advocate for the most disadvantaged in our community. In the past 12 months the Centre has employed an additional solicitor, bringing the number of solicitors to 3.6 (Full Time Equivalent), demonstrating the important role that the Centre plays in assisting those in need.

The Centre has recently updated and adopted its new strategic plan, but continuing to focus on assisting those in the community who are underprivileged, vulnerable, disadvantaged, helpless, impoverished or distressed and working in collaboration with other services to promote a streamlined and holistic approach to addressing legal need.

The Centre is continuing to evolve by embracing technology to educate the community on legal topics through information sheets being regularly placed on the website and continuing to provide outreach to various communities across the North West Coast and King Island.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the staff for your tireless effort and commitment in assisting our local community and the Management Committee, for giving freely of your time, in overseeing the work of the Centre with a continual focus on working towards and achieving the goals in the strategic plan.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Bassett".

HELEN BASSETT
CHAIRPERSON

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Centre is pleased to have finished the financial year with a modest surplus and in line with projections.

Operating in a high inflation environment with Award increases to wages and increases to overheads exceeding the indexation applied to our funding streams, it has been important over the life of the National Legal Assistance Partnership to look ahead and maintain a small financial buffer to ensure we are sustainable for the long term.

The year has seen us welcome Jill Prentice to our legal team. Jill is an asset to the Centre and has assisted us to continue to provide a high level of legal advice to the community.

Much needed upgrades have been made, including the purchase of a new television, furniture and vacuum; maintaining a modern and comfortable space for both employees and clients.

We look forward as a Management Committee to supporting the Centre for another successful year ahead.



DANIELLE TUCK
TREASURER





COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The end of the financial year offers an opportunity to reflect not only on our numbers but also on the human stories of the clients and stakeholders we've supported over the past 12 months, alongside the dedicated staff who enable our Centre to meet the evolving needs of those we serve.

Operational Challenges

As a regional community legal centre, we face annual challenges in fulfilling our mission to assist disadvantaged community members.

This year presented an interesting challenge in that regard, with higher demand on our service than any previous year combining with high inflation. The result being increases to Award wages and other operational costs which outstripped the indexation applied to our funding streams.

The 12.76% rise in client numbers reflects multiple factors, including cost-of-living pressures and a relative

shortage of litigation lawyers on the North West Coast. With increased demand and reduced supply, there are an increasing number of private firms choosing to limit or cut out work they may previously have undertaken for legally aided clients. The result being increased numbers of vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community seeking our services.

Performance Metrics

Despite the challenges, we end the year with 1.25 FTE more lawyers last year, enabling us to assist 1,078 clients, conduct 19 Community Legal Education (CLE) activities, and publish 4 comprehensive legal information papers.

Client numbers increased across all service areas, with key performance indicators met or exceeded. Notably, representation services grew by 133%, and Ongoing Legal Support rose by 21%, underscoring the increasing complexity and resource intensity of the cases we handle.

Building Partnerships

The year has seen us maintain our formal and informal connections with both legal and non-legal service providers. We have collaborated with Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA) to offer representation at Family Dispute Resolution Conferences. This effectively extends TLA's service in this area to users of our service as a means of capturing those members of the community that have been unable to obtain such representation.

We also engaged with new community groups to raise awareness of our services, culminating in the launch of our Outreach Legal Clinic at Kentish House in Sheffield which we operate every other Monday. This runs in addition to our long standing Burnie Outreach legal clinic.

Human Resources

In August, Callum Tregurtha joined the team, bringing several years of private law experience in both family and criminal law. In September, we bid farewell to Jennifer Dunn, who kindly returned for a short period after a prior near decade long tenure with the Centre before her retirement in 2021.

We also welcomed Jill Prentice, a seasoned family lawyer and accredited mediator with over 30 years in private legal practice.

The Centre's additional staff complement existing team members, Hew, Pat, and Karen, who have a combined service with the Centre of some 50 years. As a legal service provider, we recognise the importance of maintaining an experienced, dedicated, and stable workforce. It's a pleasure to be part of a team that is well-positioned to meet the demands on our service into 2024/25 and beyond.



RYAN GILMOUR

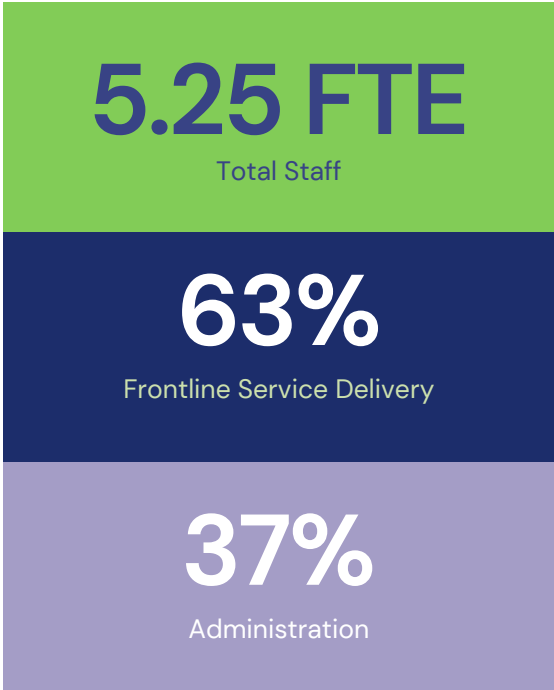
COORDINATOR/SENIOR SOLICITOR

STAFF PROFILE

The NWCLC ends the year with a 5.25 FTE staff profile which is 1.25 FTE more staff than the end of 2022/23. This is due to Mr Callum Tregurtha and Ms Jill Prentice joining the team in August 2023 and February 2024 respectively. Overall, this equates to 63% of staffing directed to frontline service delivery and 37% to administration.

As we enter the 2024/25 financial year, our goal is to maintain the current staffing structure to address the growing pressures on the service and manage the increasingly resource-intensive work required.

As a generalist CLC, the NWCLC's lawyers, including the Senior Solicitor, cover all practice areas. Over the course of the year, court and tribunal representation was handled by both the Senior Solicitor and Mr. Callum Tregurtha.



NAME	POSITION	FTE	% FRONTLINE LEGAL	% ADMIN
Ryan Gilmour	Coordinator/Senior Solicitor	1.0	70%	30%
Hew Robertson	Solicitor	1.0	100%	0%
Callum Tregurtha	Solicitor	1.0	100%	0%
Jill Prentice	Solicitor	0.6	100%	0%
Karen Harris	Administration	0.83	0%	100%
Pat Morgan	Administration Assistant	0.82	0%	100%

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024



Helen Bassett

Chairperson

Miriam Beswick

Secretary

Danielle Tuck

Treasurer

Amber Scott

Public Officer

David Humphries

Member

Danelle Griffin

Member

Julie-Anne Hancock

Member

Sophie Warren

Member

Mitchell Sheehy

Member

Aaron Murphy

Member

Toni Brown

Life Member

FINANCES

The baseline and shortfall funding received under the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) for the 2023/24 financial year totaled \$466,691.76. This reflects an increase of \$14,012 or 3.1% over the previous financial year. This represents a small reduction in indexation over the 2022/23 financial year which saw indexation at 3.58% applied.

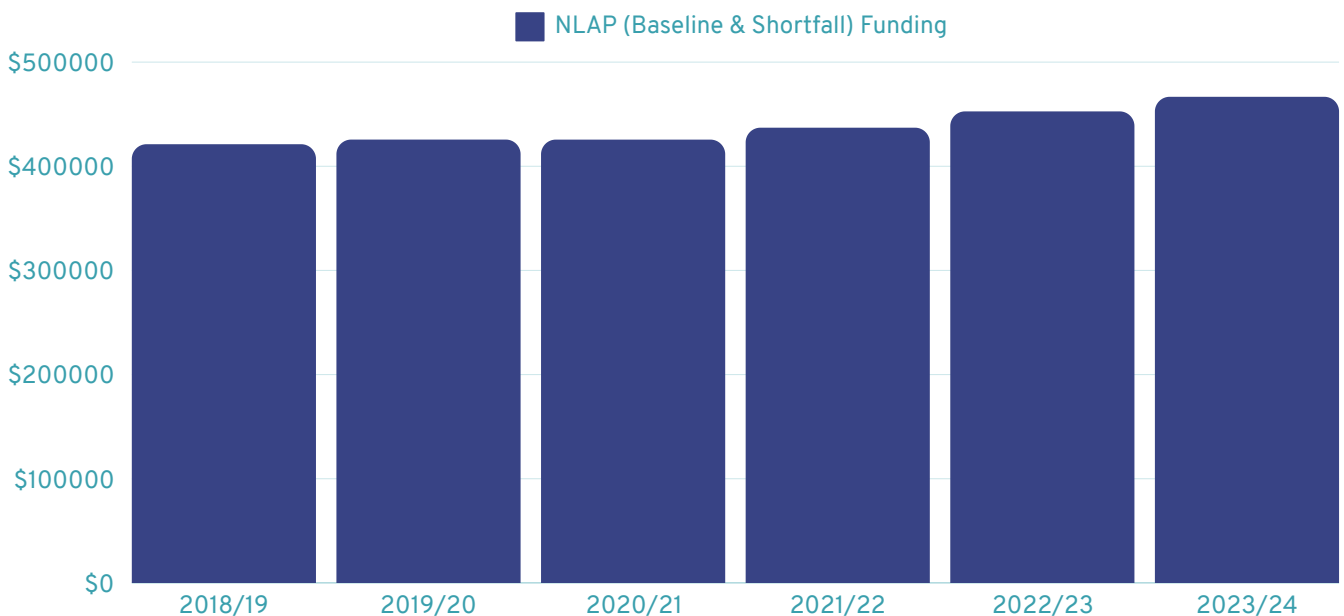
One of the challenges over the life of the NLAP has been indexation of funding not keeping up with inflation. The ABS published inflation figure for the year ended 30 June 2024 was 3.8%, meaning at no point during the life of the NLAP has baseline funding kept up with inflation.

The other funding sources continued to be:

- \$128,776.12 for Increased Legal Assistance for Vulnerable Women from the Commonwealth;
- \$50,000.00 in Legal Assistance Sector Support Funding from the State; and
- \$3,000.00 Interpreter Funding as a portion of a State Grant to CLC Tasmania.

Whilst the Legal Assistance Sector Support Funding is not indexed for inflation, the abovementioned income for Increased Legal Assistance for Vulnerable Women reflects a 1.14% increase over 2022/23.

In combination, total income from funding agreements for the year totaled \$648,467.88.



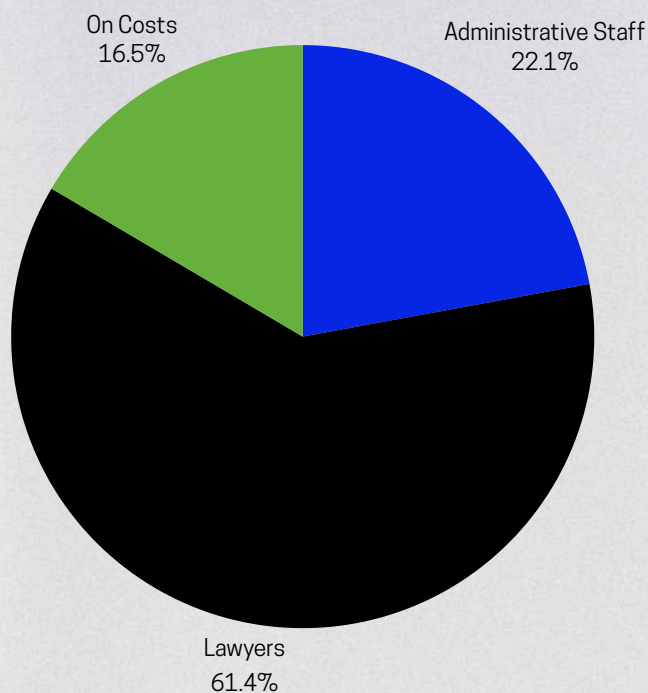
62.4%

Total Commonwealth Support

37.6%

Total State Support

Expenses Breakdown



The Centre functions as a standalone generalist Community Legal Centre without specialist practice streams. It offers information, referrals, advice, ongoing legal support and representation to national and state priority client groups across all practice areas, except migration and tenancy (tenant) matters.

The Centre's funding agreements and policies ensure services target those facing disadvantage and where private sector or alternative specialist legal services are unavailable.

All expenditure is accounted for under both the NLAP Grant Deed and the Legal Assistance Sector Support Funding Grant Deed which operate between the State and the Centre.

The financial assistance provided to the Centre from both the State and Commonwealth Governments via the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) is gratefully acknowledged

ABS, Adult Literacy in Tasmania, 2006
(Tasmanian State and Regional
Indicators 1307.6: June 2008

43.9%

of Tasmanians do not have
adequate numeracy skills

34.9%

Of Tasmanians are reliant
on government pensions and
allowances as their principal
source of income

ABS, Household Expenditure Survey,
Australia 2015-16, Table 19.6

People in the NWCLC's
Catchment Area

116,156

ABS, 2021 Census,
Statistical Areas Level 4

Median Weekly Household Income
for our catchment area., which is
\$163 below the Tasmanian average
which in turn is the lowest of all
States and Territories

\$1,195

ABS, 2021 Census,
Statistical Areas Level 4

% of those persons in our
catchment area who identify as
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait
Islander

8.4%

ABS, 2021 Census,
Statistical Areas Level 4

SERVICE STATISTICS

The 2021 Census reported Tasmania's population to have increased by 9.3% from 2016, bringing the total population to 557,571. During this period the population in our catchment area is reported to have grown by 4.6% to 119,127 people.

Each year the Centre captures a range of statistics which are used to monitor and improve service delivery to the Centre's clients.

CLIENT PROFILES



TOTAL CLIENTS

1078 clients for the year represents a 12.76% increase over 2022/23.



DISABILITY AND/OR MENTAL ILLNESS

460 clients presented with a disability and/or mental illness. This represents 42.67% of all clients.



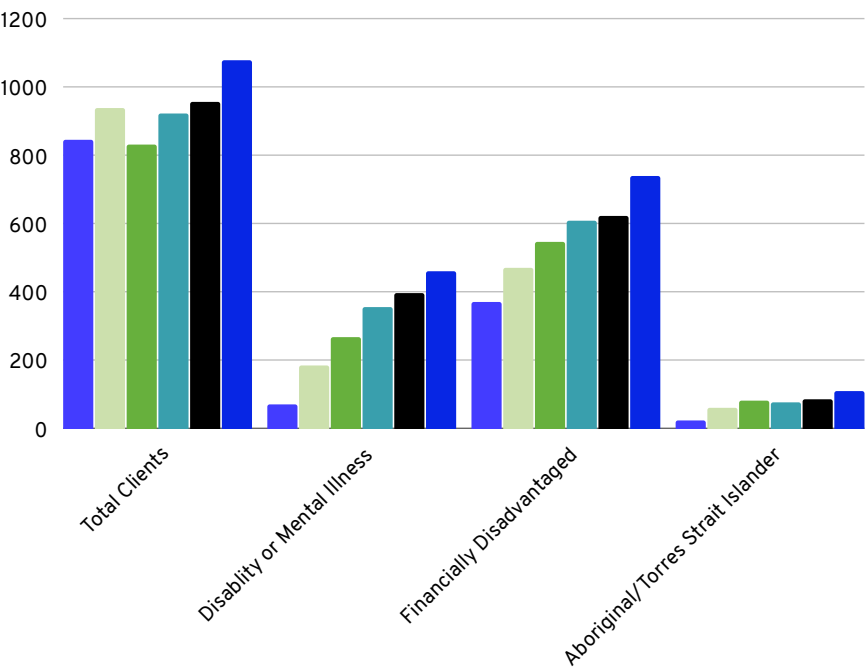
FINANCIAL DISADVANTAGE

739 clients attended our service who were financially disadvantaged. This represents 68.55% of all clients



INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

10.1% of all clients identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



CLIENTS BY AGE



1.4%

0-17 Years Old



7.2%

18-24 Years Old



16.6%

25-34 Years Old



28.1%

35-49 Years Old



26.5%

50-64 Years Old

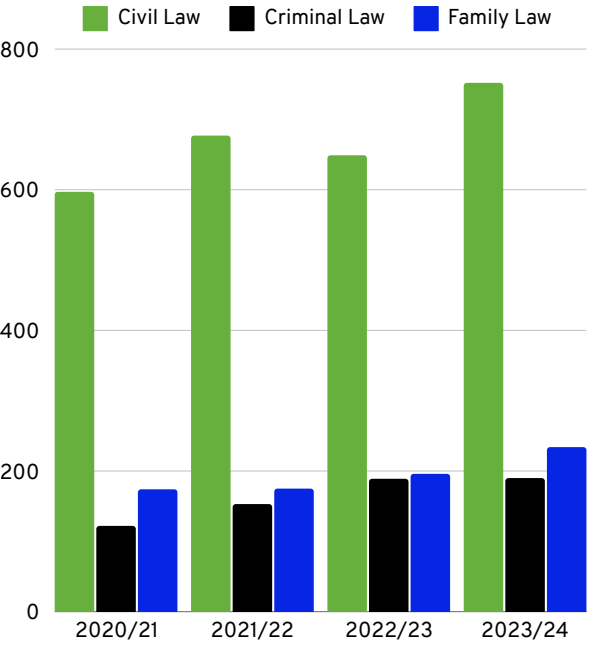


20.2%

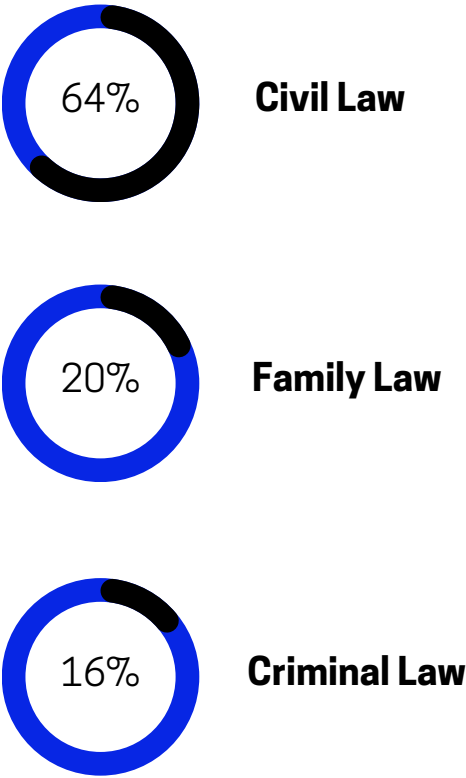
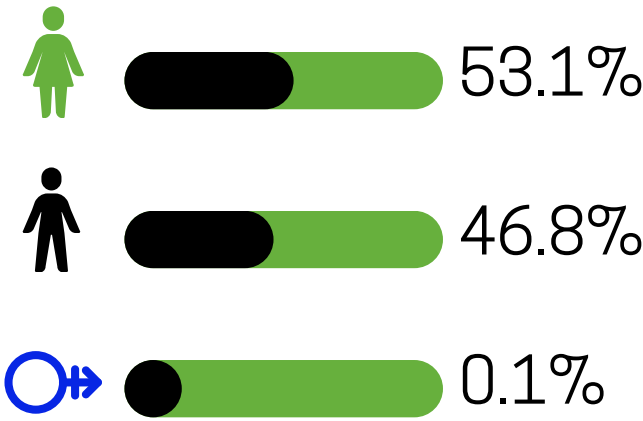
65 + Years Old



LAW TYPES



Gender

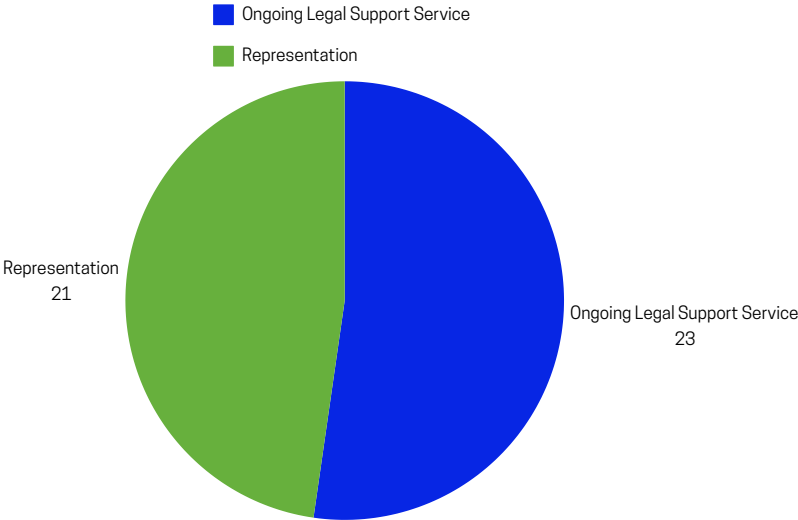


SERVICE TYPES

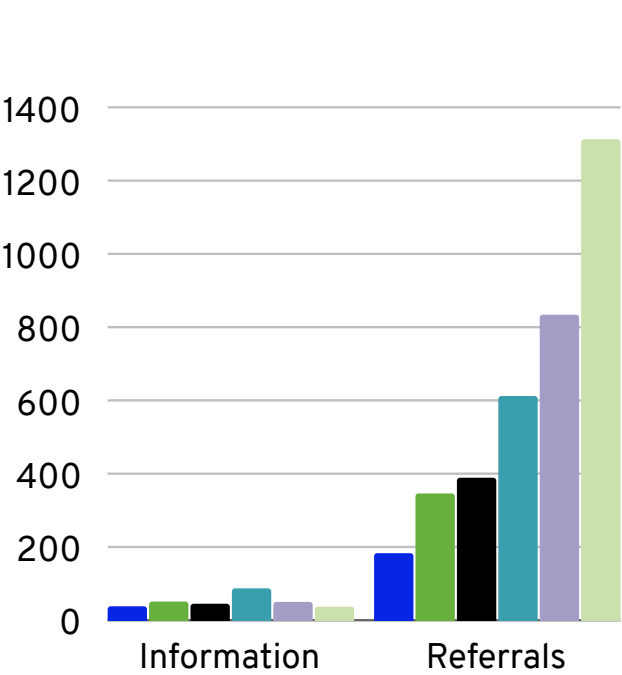
Service types are broken down into Information, Referrals, Advice, Legal Tasks, Ongoing Legal Support Services and Representation Services



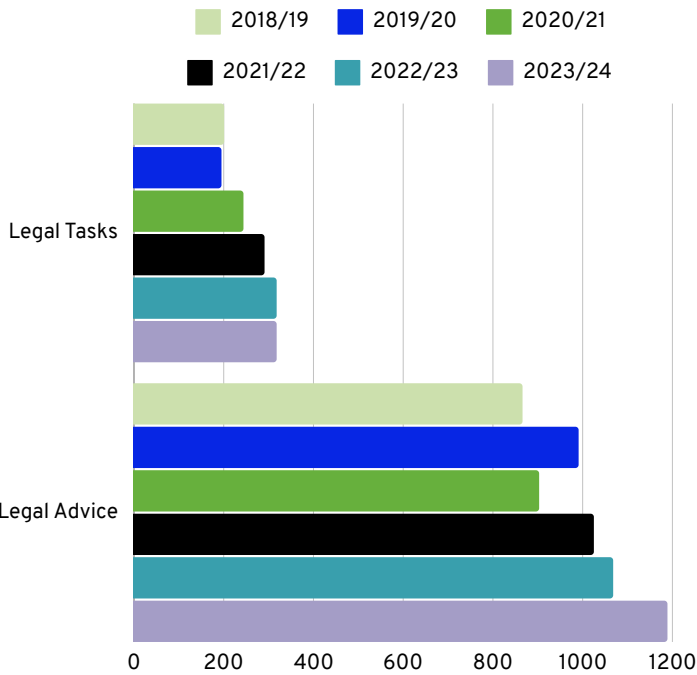
Ongoing Legal Support & Representation

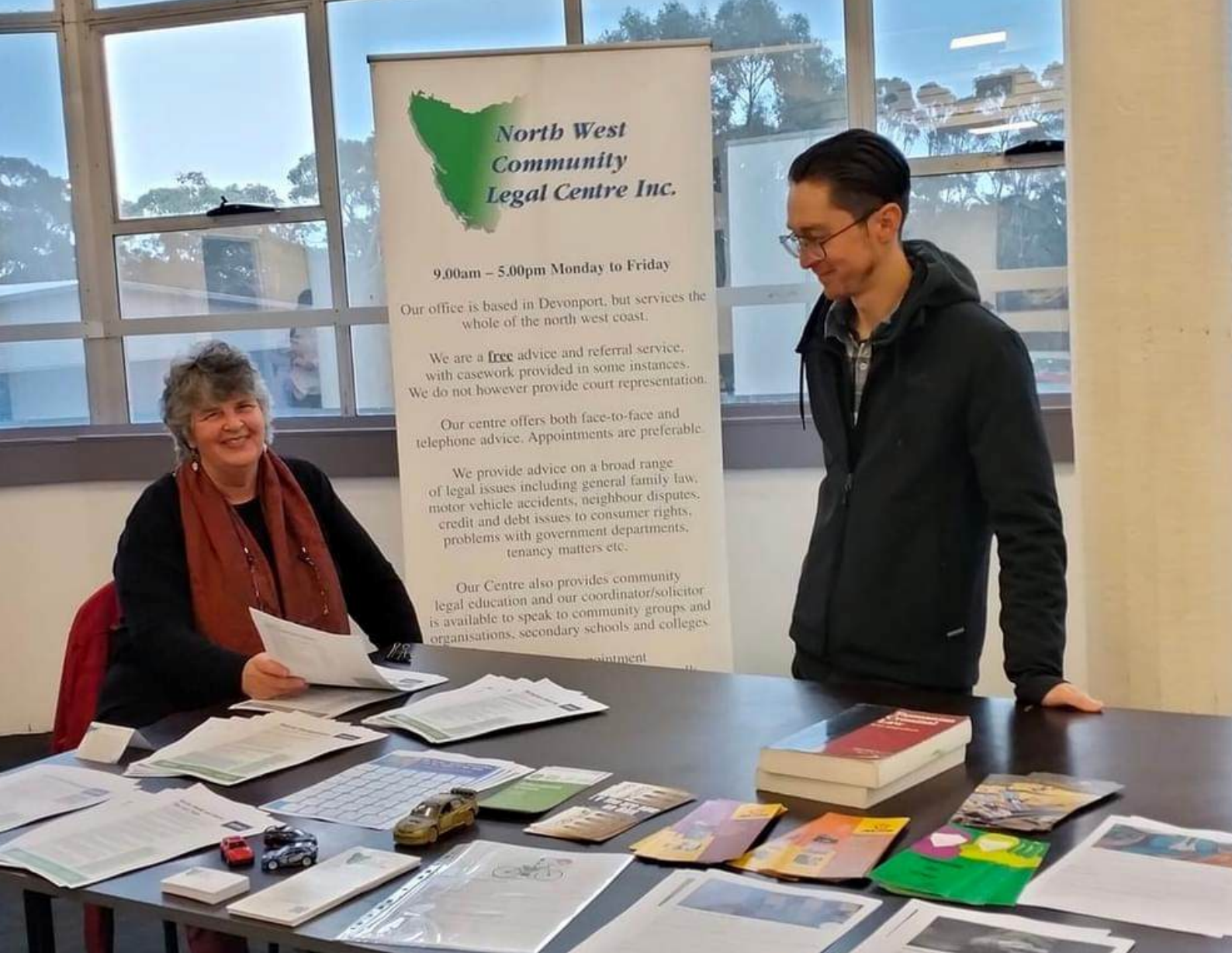


Information & Referrals



Legal Advice & Legal Tasks





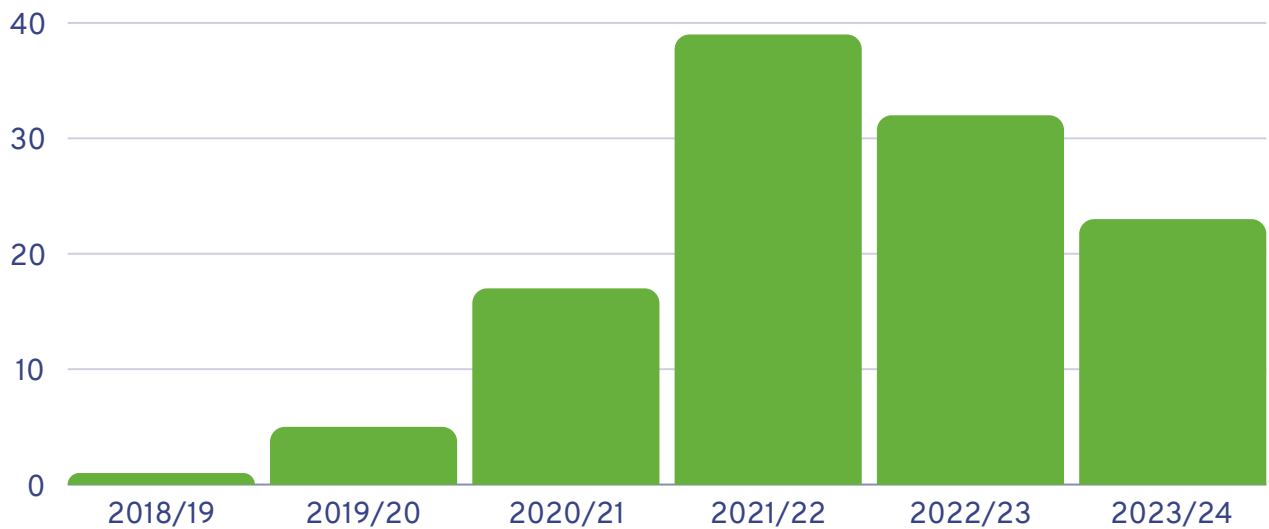
COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

Community Legal Education (CLE) is an important role of a community legal centre. It serves to better educate the community on legal topics of interest to them and in turn plays an important role in our prevention, early intervention and self help model.

This year, we collaborated with various stakeholders and in particular local community groups to deliver interactive presentations for their members across the North West Coast of Tasmania.

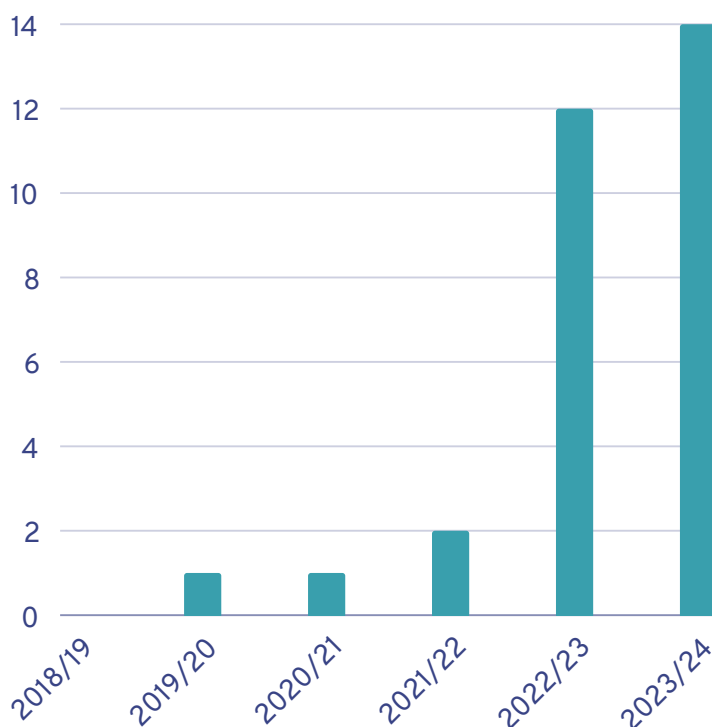
We delivered a total of 19 CLE sessions and a further 4 CLC resources, primarily in the form of comprehensive information sheets made available to the public via our website.

The small reduction in the overall number of CLE statistics recorded over 2022/23 is largely down to resource constraints. CLE sessions are performed by all lawyers of the NWCLC and with record numbers of clients accessing the service this year, the priority was to ensure those most in need were not turned away.



LAW REFORM

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES TASMANIA



Law reform in the sector is largely driven by CLC Tasmania through its policy officer, Ben Bartl. The NWCLC engages in these efforts year-round and leads its own strategic advocacy on various public interest issues, focusing on enhancing access to justice, reducing discrimination, and safeguarding and promoting human rights.

This year saw extensive work put into providing feedback into the Commonwealth's review of the first National Legal Assistance Partnership as well as various Bills before Parliament. The latter included responses to the *Police Offences Amendment (Begging Repeal) Bill 2023* and *Work Health and Safety Amendment (Industrial Manslaughter) Bill 2024*.



Really enjoyed this (and previous) NWCLC presentations.

Very Clear, concise and delivered with empathy. Very practical information.



(u3A Central Coast, Estate Administration presentation, anonymous feedback, 2 May 2024)

OUTREACH



The NWCLC continued throughout 2023/24 to provide a regular outreach service to Burnie residents by way of attending Burnie Community House at Shorewell Park each Friday between 10am and 3pm. This service remains well utilised as it provides a more accessible venue for those clients that reside in the Burnie/Waratah-Wynyard locale to attend a face to face appointment. This is important where transport might otherwise have been an issue for the client in attending our Devonport office and where the use of telephone or video conferencing facilities is not appropriate given the nature of the particular matter.



This year, we formed a new relationship with Kentish House in Sheffield. Following on from several well attended community legal education sessions at this venue, we commenced an Outreach Service. By appointment only, we attend Kentish House each second Monday between 10am and 1pm. This provides a further way in which clients can have face to face appointments in an area that is not well serviced by public transport.

We continue to offer all our services to clients via face to face appointments, telephone appointments, Zoom and Microsoft Teams links to provide a range of options for clients that best suit their individual needs/circumstances.

Thank you very much for your kind and specialist advice and your time, after a lot of efforts communication, they finally accepted my claim, that's really good news, you and the north west community legal center make me feel warm when I get helpless, thank you very much, appreciated 🙏

(Client, via email, November 2023)



STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

1

CLC Tasmania

Collaborating with the other 8 member organisations of CLC Tasmania. Work this year has included sector service mapping to ensure stakeholders are aware of the current practice areas of each organisation and our continued contributions towards law reform.

2

Law Link Tasmania

The NWCLC participated in Law Link Tasmania meetings throughout the year, offering written updates, highlighting issues of concern and identifying trends through statistical analysis of the NWCLC's service provision.

3

CLC Australia

Attendances at Members Advisory Group Meetings, Information Communication and Data Group meetings amongst others,, providing feedback from the Tasmanian sector and contributing to the future direction of the sector in all areas.

4

Community Houses

Continued engagement with local community houses has seen us expand our Outreach program to Kentish Community House. We continue our relationship with Burnie Community House as our Burnie Outreach venue and have furthered connections with Community Houses across the North West and West Coasts.

5

Resource Sharing

Resource sharing – making office space available for other legal service providers including the Women's Legal Service of Tasmania and Knowmore and appearing on matters from Tasmania Legal Aid.

6

Stakeholder Engagement

Maintaining and expanding connections to schools and colleges and attending community health and wellbeing expos. Maintaining existing connections both formal and informal with local allied service providers such as YFCC.

CLIENT STORIES



Jennifer & Mark

Civil Litigation

Jennifer and Mark's father tragically passed away. Mark had recently turned 18 and Jennifer was a youth suffering from a significant intellectual disability rendering her incapable of ever being able to make her own financial decisions.

Jennifer and Mark's father had a Will, but had not updated it since the birth of his children, meaning Jennifer and Mark stood to inherit nothing.

Jennifer and Mark attempted to obtain private legal representation with a view to negotiating a share of their father's estate from his other family members named in his Will or otherwise making application to the Supreme Court under the *Testator's Family Maintenance Act 1912*. Unfortunately, neither Jennifer or Mark had the financial capacity to pay for legal representation and no firm was willing to enter into a "no win no fee" or deferred payment arrangement.

With the estate comprising of a freehold home and the three month statutory window from the date of Probate running out to file an Application with the Supreme Court, we provided representation to the clients.

We were able to resolve the matter, whereby the majority of the estate was paid to Jennifer and Mark which was formalised through a Deed of Family Arrangement.

Given Jennifer's disabilities, a Trust was also created to manage those funds for Jennifer until such time as she became an adult and an Administrator could be appointed.



Jacob

Restraint Order

Jacob, a youth, approached our service with his parents seeking urgent advice regarding a Restraint Order Application taken out by Tasmania Police against him relating to an allegation of rape. The Application was deficient and highly problematic in circumstances where Jacob was under 18 and not charged. While a referral led to Jacob seeking assistance from another service provider, he soon returned following being told by the other service provider to accept a Restraint Order or that service would cease acting despite the deficiencies and the significant impact a Restraint Order would have on the youth's employment. We took over representation of Jacob and made submissions to both Police and the Court that ultimately resulted in the application being withdrawn by Tasmania Police and no further action being taken.

Michelle

Criminal Law

Michelle approached the service seeking advice after having entered pleas of not guilty to charges of assaulting a public official and having had the relationship with her lawyer break down. Michelle wanted to represent herself and sought advice regarding the process involved. As her case progressed, we assisted Michelle by explaining each step of the hearing process and assisting her to prepare her cross-examination in addition to sentencing submissions (for her limited other charges she accepted guilt for). As a result of the assistance provided, Michelle was able to successfully represent herself and was found not guilty by the Court of the charge with a nominal penalty imposed for the associated matters.

We value and respect the confidentiality of our clients. We do not use any real names or images in telling their stories and certain identifying details may have been changed or removed to protect possible identification



HOURS OF OPERATION

The NWCLC’s office hours remained unchanged from previous years, operating Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The NWCLC continued its Burnie Outreach Service, available by appointment only, at Burnie Community House, 24 Wiseman Street, Shorewell Park, every Friday between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM throughout the year. Our Outreach expanded to Kentish Community House, 16-18 Station Street, Sheffield, every second Monday from 10:00 AM to 1:00pm.

The NWCLC was closed only on gazetted public holidays and during the Christmas and New Year period, from Friday, 22 December 2023, to Monday, 1 January 2024, inclusive.

CONTACT US

 Phone
(03) 6424 8720

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 Website
www.nwclc.org.au

 Office Address
**56 Formby Road,
Devonport, TAS, 7310**



FINANCIAL REPORT

2023/2024

North West Community Legal Centre Inc

Financial report

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Prepared by

Willing Associates Pty Ltd

24 Edward Street
DEVONPORT TAS 7310

North West Community Legal Centre Inc

Income statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income		
Funding - National Legal Assistance Partnership	595,468	580,035
Funding - Legal Assistance Sector Support	50,000	50,000
Interest received	19,661	6,903
Sundry income	3,000	-
Lease Agreements	211	224
	<u>668,340</u>	<u>637,161</u>
Gross profit from trading	668,340	637,161
Expenses		
Accounting fees and software	1,743	-
Advertising	627	566
Annual dinner and catering	2,564	2,481
Audit fee	980	980
Bank charges	1	30
CLCs Australia General Fee	3,432	3,082
Cleaning	2,541	-
Computer expenses	4,191	1,903
Conference Expenses	-	4,071
Depreciation - Plant and equipment	11,644	6,283
Employee entitlements provisions	10,836	7,890
Insurance	6,518	5,921
Leasing charges	-	332
Motor Vehicle Expense	3,552	-
Net gain/loss on disposal of plant and equipment	-	821
Office supplies	2,168	-
Postage	140	140
Power & gas	3,790	4,725
Printing and stationery	2,626	3,236
Reference materials	1,030	325
Registration & licence fees	1,055	2,367
Rent of premises	38,606	35,461
Repairs and maintenance	398	4,229
Security	615	505
Staff amenities	1,115	147
Sundry expenses	574	529
Telephone, mobile and fax	5,798	6,704
Travel	153	1,162
Wages	507,999	447,361
Water	1,146	1,675
	<u>615,843</u>	<u>542,926</u>
Surplus for year	52,496	94,236

These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

North West Community Legal Centre Inc

Balance sheet As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash assets	2	782,854	715,381
Other assets	3	2,192	2,549
Total current assets		785,046	717,930
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	33,134	35,504
Total non-current assets		33,134	35,504
Total assets		818,180	753,434
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Payables	5	0	959
Provisions	6	65,049	42,191
Tax liabilities	7	9,303	23,195
Total current liabilities		74,352	66,345
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	6	12,058	7,815
Total non-current liabilities		12,058	7,815
Total liabilities		86,410	74,160
Net assets		731,770	679,274
Equity			
Retained earnings		731,770	679,274
Total equity		731,770	679,274

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

North West Community Legal Centre Inc

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

2024	2023
\$	\$

Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies

- a. This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (Tas.) 1964. The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Tas.) 1964 and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 1031: Materiality
AASB 110: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The financial report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation of the financial report. The policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

- b. **Property, Plant and Equipment**
Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost. Depreciable items are depreciated over their expected useful life using the diminishing value.
- c. **Inventories**
Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.
- d. **Income tax**
The association is exempt from income tax under section 23(h) of the Income Tax Assessment Act (1997).
- e. **Grant income**
Grant revenue is recognised in the income statement when it is controlled. When there are conditions attached to grant revenue relating to the use of those grants for specific purposes it is recognised in the balance sheet as a liability (Grants Unexpended) until such conditions are met or services provided.
- f. **Goods and services tax (GST)**
The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the Australian Taxation Office is included as a current asset or a current liability respectively in the balance sheet.
- g. **Members' Guarantee**
The club is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1964. If it is wound up, the rules of the club state that each member is required to make a contribution towards any outstanding liabilities.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

North West Community Legal Centre Inc

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Note 2: Cash assets		
Cash on hand	832	622
Debit Card	792	456
Cheque account	171,230	314,304
Term deposits	610,000	400,000
	<u>782,854</u>	<u>715,381</u>
Note 3: Other assets		
Prepayments	2,192	2,549
Note 4: Property, plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment at cost	87,103	77,829
Less accumulated depreciation	(53,969)	(42,325)
	<u>33,134</u>	<u>35,504</u>
Note 5: Payables		
Trade creditors	0	959
Note 6: Provisions		
Provision for annual leave	39,411	36,957
Provision for long service leave	9,373	5,234
Superannuation payable	16,265	-
Provision for long service leave	12,058	7,815
	<u>77,107</u>	<u>50,006</u>
Note 7: Tax liabilities		
GST - Prior years liabilities	417	13,515
PAYG instalment payable	8,886	9,680
	<u>9,303</u>	<u>23,195</u>

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

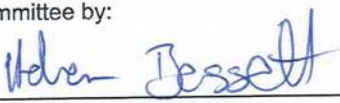
North West Community Legal Centre Inc


The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the Income Statement, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements:

1. Present fairly the financial position and give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of North West Community Legal Centre Inc as at 30/06/2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:


Helen Bassett


Danielle Tuck
20/09/2024

North West Community Legal Centre Inc

Auditors report on the financial report

We have audited the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial report of North West Community Legal Centre Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the declaration by members of the committee.

Committee's responsibility for the financial report

The Committee of the entity is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion:

- 1 the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of North West Community Legal Centre Inc. at 30 June 2024, and of its performance for the year then ended;
- 2 we obtained the information we required for the audit and North West Community Legal Centre Inc. kept proper accounting records and other books during the year ended 30 June 2024; and
- 3 the rules relating to the administration of the funds of North West Community Legal Centre Inc. have been observed.

Willing Associates Pty Ltd, Accountants

Name of director  20/09/2024
Mary-anne Peebles

Auditor's Certification

Name of Organisation: North West Community Legal Centre

Financial Year Period: 01 / 07 / 2023 to 30 / 06 / 2024

I hereby certify that:

- a. I am not a principal, member, shareholder, officer, employee or accountant of the Organisation or of a related body corporate as defined in section 9 of the Corporations Act 2001
- b. In my opinion, the attached financial statements which comprise a Statement of Financial Position, a Statement of Comprehensive Income (previously known as a Statement of Financial Performance) and Notes to the Financial Statements of the above-mentioned Organisation ('the Organisation'), and, if general purpose reports are provided, a Statement of Cash Flows, for the stated Financial Year Period are:
 - i. based on proper accounts and present a true and fair view of the Organisation's financial position and financial performance in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and
 - ii. in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement **The Crown in the right of Tasmania represented by the Department of Justice and North West Community Legal Centre dated 19 October 2023**, a copy of which has been made available to me, in relation to the provision of community legal services.
- c. The 12 month CLASS Funds Report, containing details of the Organisations transactions for the financial year, including audit adjustments, and the Organisation's grant position at the beginning and end of the financial year is provided in respect of funds provided in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement referred to in b.ii. above for all Funding Categories.

This is an unqualified audit report.

Unless written under separate cover, I hereby further certify that, in my opinion, there is no conflict of interest between myself and the Organisation or its Management Committee.

AUDITOR DETAILS

Full Name: Mary-Anne Peebles


Name of Company (if applicable): Willing Associates Pty Ltd

ACN or ABN Number: 45 009 544 629

Registered Auditor: *If Yes:*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Registration No.:

Signature: 

Date: 01 / 07 / 2024